



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/809,425	03/26/2004	Mai Levite	27644	8418

7590

10/18/2006

Martin D. Moynihan
PRTSI, Inc.
P. O. Box 16446
Arlington, VA 22215

EXAMINER

JUEDES, AMY E

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

1644

DATE MAILED: 10/18/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/809,425	Applicant(s) LEVITE, MAI	
	Examiner Amy E. Juedes, Ph.D.	Art Unit 1644	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 March 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Art Unit: 1644

DETAILED ACTION

1. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. § 121:

I. Claim 3, drawn to an assay of determining an effect of glutamate or a glutamate analog on a T cell related disease, wherein said glutamate analog is a downregulator of T cell activation; classified in Class 435, subclass 375.

II. Claim 4, drawn to an assay of determining an effect of glutamate or a glutamate analog on a T cell related disease, wherein said glutamate analog is an upregulator of T cell activation; classified in Class 435, subclass 325.

Claims 1-2 link(s) inventions I-II. The restriction requirement among the linked inventions is subject to the nonallowance of the linking claim(s), claims 1-2. Upon the allowance of the linking claim(s), the restriction requirement as to the linked inventions shall be withdrawn and any claim(s) depending from or otherwise including all the limitations of the allowable linking claim(s) will be entitled to examination in the instant application. Applicant(s) are advised that if any such claim(s) depending from or including all the limitations of the allowable linking claim(s) is/are presented in a continuation or divisional application, the claims of the continuation or divisional application may be subject to provisional statutory and/or nonstatutory double patenting rejections over the claims of the instant application. Where a restriction requirement is withdrawn, the provisions of 35 U.S.C. 121 are no longer applicable. *In re Ziegler*, 44 F.2d 1211, 1215, 170 USPQ 129, 131-32 (CCPA 1971). See also MPEP § 804.01.

III. Claims 8 and 12-16, drawn to a method of upregulating T cell activity; classified in Class 435, subclass 375.

IV. Claims 10-11, drawn to a method of downregulating T cell activity; classified in Class 424, subclass 278.1.

Claims 5-7, 9 link(s) inventions III-IV. The restriction requirement among the linked inventions is subject to the nonallowance of the linking claim(s), claims 5-7, 9. Upon the allowance of the linking claim(s), the restriction requirement as to the linked inventions shall be withdrawn and any claim(s)

Art Unit: 1644

depending from or otherwise including all the limitations of the allowable linking claim(s) will be entitled to examination in the instant application. Applicant(s) are advised that if any such claim(s) depending from or including all the limitations of the allowable linking claim(s) is/are presented in a continuation or divisional application, the claims of the continuation or divisional application may be subject to provisional statutory and/or nonstatutory double patenting rejections over the claims of the instant application. Where a restriction requirement is withdrawn, the provisions of 35 U.S.C. 121 are no longer applicable. *In re Ziegler*, 44 F.2d 1211, 1215, 170 USPQ 129, 131-32 (CCPA 1971). See also MPEP § 804.01.

2. Groups I-IV are unrelated methods. Inventions are unrelated if it can be shown that they are not disclosed as capable of use together and they have different modes of operation, different functions, or different effects (MPEP § 806.04, MPEP § 808.01). In the instant case the different inventions are drawn to methods comprising different method steps, different reagents, resulting in different endpoints. For example, the method of groups II and III require an upregulator of T cell activation, while the methods of groups I and IV require a downregulator of T cell activation. Furthermore, the methods of groups I-II require different method steps, for example, assessing T cell related symptoms, than the methods of groups III-IV. Additionally, the methods of groups I-II and III-IV result in a different endpoint.

3. These inventions are distinct for the reasons given above. In addition, they have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their recognized divergent subject matter. Further, a different field of search would be required based upon the various methods requiring different reagents, method steps, and resulting in different endpoints. Therefore restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Species Election

4. Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable.

Applicant is required to:

Art Unit: 1644

elect a specific method of modulating T cell activity from the group consisting of in vitro or in vivo (if groups III-IV are elected),

elect a specific T cell related disease or condition, such as one of those listed in claim 16 (if group IV is elected),

indicate which claims read on the elected species, including any claims subsequently added.

These are distinct species because they require different method steps and different patient populations. Currently, claims 5, 8-11, 12-13, and 16 are generic with regard to the method of modulating T cell activity, and claims 12-15 are generic with respect to a T cell related disease or condition.

Applicant is advised that a reply to this requirement must include an identification of the species that is elected consonant with this requirement. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered nonresponsive unless accompanied by an election.

5. Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141. If claims are added after the election, applicant must indicate which are readable upon the elected species. MPEP § 809.02(a).

6. Should applicant traverse on the ground that the species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of the other invention.

7. Applicant is advised that the response to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed.

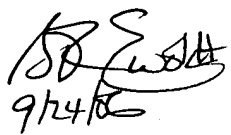
Art Unit: 1644

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dr. Amy E. Juedes whose telephone number is 571-272-4471. The examiner can normally be reached on 8am - 5pm from Monday to Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christina Chan can be reached on 571-272-0841. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Amy E. Juedes, Ph.D.
Patent Examiner
Technology Center 1600
September 14, 2006


9/14/06
G.R. EWOLDT, PH.D.
PRIMARY EXAMINER